

DNREC Announces Photo Contest Winners

"Winter Hike at Dusk Near the Marsh" by James Blackstock

Contest Highlights Woodland Beach Wildlife Area

From May through mid-August, the [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#) invited photographers and nature lovers to submit their best photographs taken on the [Tony Florio Woodland Beach Wildlife Area](#) and the adjoining Aquatic Resources Education Center (AREC) near Smyrna. Now the results are in for this new annual contest.



"Winter Tide" by Aurelia Thomas
(Under 13)

To increase public awareness of the natural wonders of AREC and the surrounding wildlife area, children and adults were encouraged to visit the area to take and submit photographs of aquatic life, birds and other wildlife, scenic landscapes, and people enjoying the outdoors. The peaceful, scenic area is a destination along the Delaware Bayshore Byway that features two fishing ponds, trails, and a raised boardwalk with vistas across the tidal salt marsh to Delaware Bay.

Entries were accepted in three categories: birds, nature and people enjoying nature; and in three age groups: children under age 13, teens ages 13 to 18 and adults age 19 and older.

The 2021 winners are:

Children under age 13:

Nature – "Winter Tide" by Aurelia Thomas

Birds – “Portrait of a Blue Grosbeak” by Wyatt Humphreys

Teens ages 13 to 18:

Nature – “Rain Drops on Leaf” by Bella McDannell

Adults 19 and older:

Birds – “Ringed-neck Duck” by Sherry Abbott

Enjoying Nature – “A Different Perspective” by David S. Vallee

Nature – “Winter Hike at Dusk Near the Marsh” by James Blackstock

Winning photos are posted on the [DNREC website](#) and featured in DNREC’s Outdoor Delaware online magazine, de.gov/outdoorde. Judging was based on how well the photos represent the following criteria: things you can see and do at the Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, originality/creativity and universal appeal. The judging panel included DNREC educators at the Aquatic Resources Education Center.

About DNREC

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control protects and manages the state’s natural resources, protects public health, provides outdoor recreational opportunities, and educates Delawareans about the environment. The DNREC [Division of Fish and Wildlife](#) conserves and manages Delaware’s fish and wildlife and their habitats, and provides fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and boating access on nearly 65,000 acres of public land. For more information, visit the [website](#) and connect with @DelawareDNREC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

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